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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty. Docket: KNAPP3

In re Application of:)	Conf. No.: 7685
Rainer KNAPP et al.)	
)	Art Unit: 3683
)	
Appln. No.: 10/824,404)	Examiner:
)	
Filed: April 15, 2004)	Washington, D.C.
)	
For: ADJUSTABLE-LENGTH GAS)	December 29, 2004
SPRING)	
)	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT [IDS]

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
2011 South Clark Place
Customer Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97, 1.98, and it is requested that the information set forth in this statement and in the listed documents be considered during the pendency of the above-identified application, and any other application relying on the filing date of the above-identified application or cross-referencing it as a related application.

[X] 1. This IDS should be considered, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97, as it is filed:

[] A. within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national application or within three months of the entry into the national stage of the above-identified international application.

[X] B. before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits or before the mailing of a first Office

action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR §1.114; or

[X] 2. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98, this IDS includes a list (e.g., form BN/SB/08A/B) of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the office, either incorporated into this IDS or as an attachment hereto. Other than U.S. patent(s) and/or published U.S. application(s), which 37 CFR §1.98(a)(2)(ii) does not require to be filed unless specifically required by the Office, a copy of each document listed is attached, except as explained below:

[] A. Document(s) _____ is/are deemed substantially cumulative to document(s) _____, and, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(c), a copy of each of the former document(s) is not enclosed.

[] B. Certain documents were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in the following prior application(s), which are relied upon under 35 U.S.C. 120:

(insert serial numbers and filing dates of prior applications)

Applicant identifies these documents by attaching hereto copies of the forms PTO-892, PTO-1449, PTO/SB/08a and/or PTO/SB/08b (or their BN form equivalents) from the files of the prior application(s) or a fresh BN/SB/08A and/or BN/SB/08B listing these documents, and request that they be considered and made of record in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(d). Per 37 CFR §1.98(d), copies of these documents need not be filed in this application.

[X] 3. Documents AV - BB are not in the English language. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3), Applicant states:

[X] An English translation of document AX (or of the pertinent portions thereof), or a copy of an English-language abstract (or claim) is enclosed.

[] For documents _____, a corresponding English-language patent or published application

is included on the accompanying Form BN/SB/08A, with a line drawn in the margin connecting the non-English-language document with its corresponding English-language document.

[X] A concise explanation of the relevance of documents AV - BB is found in the attached European Search Report (see reply to Comment 68 in the preamble to the final rules; 1135 OG 13 at 20).

[] A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) _____ is set forth as follows:

[] A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) _____ can be found on page(s) _____ of the specification.

[] A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) _____ can be found on the attached sheet.

[X] 4. No explanation of relevance is necessary for documents in the English language (see reply to Comments 67 and 68 in the preamble to the final rules; 1135 OG 13 at 20).

[X] 5. Other information being provided for the examiner's consideration follows:

The following documents were previously cited in an earlier IDS filed on April 15, 2004, U.S. Application No. 10/824,404:

EP 0 353 550 A1, DE 40 00 865 A1, GB 565,630 A, DE 69 44 199 U, and DE 1 960 545 U

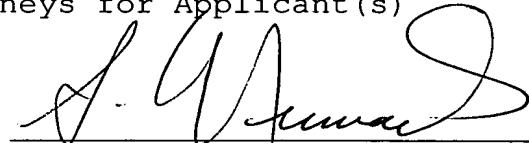
6. In accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this IDS should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b), or that any cited document listed or attached is (or constitutes) prior art. Unless otherwise indicated, the

date of publication indicated for an item is taken from the face of the item and Applicant reserves the right to prove that the date of publication is in fact different.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

By:



Sheridan Neimark
Registration No. 20,520

SN:lmh
624 Ninth Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20001-5303
Telephone: (202) 628-5197
Facsimile: (202) 737-3528

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	1
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Application Number	10/824,404
Filing Date	April 15, 2004
First Named Inventor	Rainer KNAPP
Group Art Unit	3683
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	KNAPP3

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number* Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	AV	DE 92 12 735.5 U	02-03-1994	Dictator Technik Dr. Wolfram Schneider & Co.		
	AW	DE 40 00 865 A1	07-18-1991	Stabilus GmbH		
	AX	DE 24 45 240 A	04-08-1976	Hemscheidt Maschfab GmbH		ABS
	AY	DE 15 05 360 A	03-26-1970	Bourcier de Carbon		
	AZ	DE 69 44 199 U	04-23-1970	Hermann Hemscheidt		
	BA	DE 19 60 545 U	05-18-1967	Hermann Hemscheidt		
	BB	EP 0 353 550 A	02-07-1990	Bauer Fritz & Soehne OHG		
	BC	GB 565 630 A	11-20-1944	Peter Warborn Thornhill; Ribbesford Company Ltd.		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.